--- 23 on 25 Cigarettes - BABN's overprint for the September 1939 Budget ---

When the wartime Budget of September 1939 increased the excise duty on *small cigarettes* from $ 4.00 to $ 5.00 per thousand the manufacturers responded by decreasing their package sizes by one cigarette per pack of ten (or major fraction thereof) and the pre-war pack of *twenty-five* cigarettes was reduced to *twenty-three* for *across Canada* sales (except in Montreal and its environs) at 25¢ per pack.

At the same time BABN overprinted **RC-394** in ***black ink*** with four central 6 mm. horizontally stacked *killer bars* and a 4 mm. Roman **23** at each side plus four stacked 4 mm. horizontal *killer bars* in the bottom corners as the provisional **RC-469**.

★**RC-469 - 23** on 25 cigarettes, imperf, coded **16-10D / 389** by "L.O. Grothe" in the 38th week (September) of 1939

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 3 copies to date ---

[★RC-469] - 1939		---	---	---	---	---	---	**---**	---	---
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	409	**---**	**---**	**---**	**449**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**	**---**
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"L. O. Grothe" had begun code dating their cigarette production in 1939 with a numerical code, in which the first two digits represented the ***week*** of production, and the final digit provided the ***year***. As seen above, they maintained this code through the Budget of September 1939 without any alteration. Since all of these number codes seem to represent an ***even number*** of weeks, it is possible that "L. O. Grothe" was changing their code every ***two weeks***.

--- the definitive 23 Cigarettes - as used by "L. O. Grothe" - 1939-40 ---

The definitive imperforate Series "C" *twenty-three cigarette* stamp is first listed as used by "L. O. Grothe" in April 1940. The hidden letters "H-T" indicate that the die had been approved late in 1939.

After using a three-digit *weekly cancellation* in 1939, the cancellation format was switched in 1940 to read in *months* for sheets purchased under the September 1939 Budget. The initial code cancellation in the 22 cigarette collection (January 1940 is **1-40**) but, by March 1940, this had been shortened to simply read as **30**. In this monthly cancel the first digit (or two digits in the 4th quarter) read the ***month*** of use, and the final digit gives the ***year***.

★**RC-390** - 23 cigarettes, imperf, coded **16-10D / 50** by "L. O. Grothe" in May 1940

--- the cancellations read horizontally upright - 3 copies to date ---

[★RC-390]	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1940	---	---	---	**40**	**50**	**60**	---	---	---	---	---	---

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When the Budget of June 23rd1940 increased the excise duty on *small cigarettes* from $ 5.00 to $ 6.00 per thousand, "L. O. Grothe" began production of a *twenty-five* cigarette pack for *across Canada* sales at 30¢, plus a smaller *twenty* cigarettes at 25¢, and terminated the production of *twenty-three* cigarettes.

File path is c:\ MS - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1935 - Series C \ 23 cigarettes \ 16-10D - small],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 27th 2013, JBH